THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir 168 persons had been arrested under POTA in the State till February, 2003.

(c) and (d) State Government has reported that in some rare cases under POTA offences are not proved during investigation. In such cases either other penal laws are invoked or benefit under section 169 given to the arestee.

Increase in naxalites incidents

†4264. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for increase in incidents of naxalites in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra; and

(b) whether amount provided by Central Government from time to time for tackling naxalism and strengthening the police force has been properly and completely utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) As per available information, the reasons for increase in naxalite activities in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra are primarily on account of extensive militarization by the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DSZC) of the CPML-PW. DSZC has inducted new cadres and organized military trailing camps. There has been a marginal decrease in the number of incidents in Madhya Pradesh in 2002 compared to 2001.

(b) Financial assistance for combating extremism in the Left Wing extremism affected States is provided through the Scheme of reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure.

Communal riots

†4265. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) number of communal riots erupted during the last five years and loss of life and property in such riots;

(b) incidents of communal tension and riots during the last five years in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra and loss of life and property in such incidents; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.